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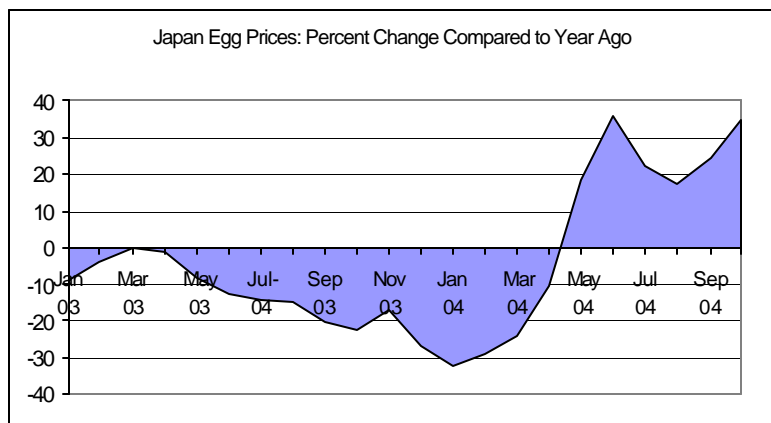
Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

Egg Prices in Japan

In 2003 overproduction and increased egg product imports led to some of the lowest egg prices in years. The average producer price, in yen per kilogram, fell from 158.0 in 2002 to 128.0 in 2003. Chick placements were strong during the first six months of 2003, but sharply lower for July through December 2003 placements. Total chick placements fell 2 percent in 2003.

Japan had an outbreak of avian influenza in January 2004, leading to a drop in egg consumption and not recovering until June. Whole egg prices in Tokyo began to climb in May of 2004, and in October prices were 35 percent higher compared to October 2003, (204 yen/kg compared to 151 yen/kg). Prices traditionally peak in December and the fall in January.



Source: ALIC, International Egg Commission, news wires

U.S. Shell Egg Exports and Imports, Selected Countries

January-October Comparisons, in dozens

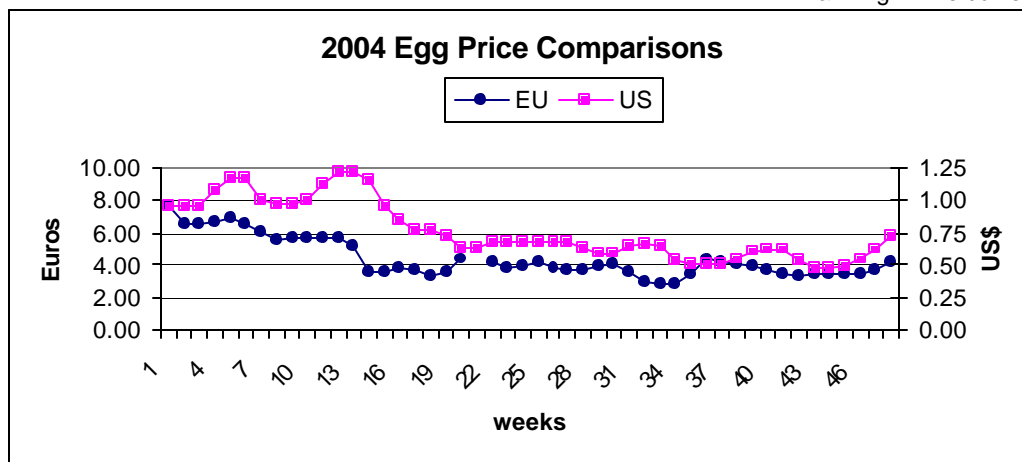
	Exports		Imports	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Belgium	3,266,094	-	-	-
Canada	11,460,204	29,166,528	9,232	-
China	1,028,766	945,454	235,191	166,201
Cuba	1,511,460	1,557,000	-	-
Denmark	208,560	-	-	-
Germany	2,218,223	-	-	-
Hong Kong	13,932,920	9,775,837	-	-
Israel	314,200	222,370	317,520	132,300
Mexico	368,779	14,430	-	576,720
Netherlands	661,200	-	-	-
West. Samoa	509,341	514,230	-	-
New Zealand	-	-	57,739	49,854
UK	13,336	-	-	160,680
Taiwan	-	-	29,760	64,488
World	36,463,741	43,392,272	649,442	1,150,234

Source: U.S. Department of Census

U.S. and EU Eggs

In 2003 over 30 million birds were culled due to an outbreak of avian influenza (AI) in the EU and, combined with an extremely hot summer, fewer eggs were. Short supplies in 2003 led to strong prices in the EU and producers expanded their laying flocks expecting prices to remain high. The current oversupply of eggs led to lower prices.

2004 Egg Price Comparisons



EU - Large graded loose, per 100 pieces
US - Large cartoned eggs, Northeast weekly average

U.S. egg exports to the EU were unusually heavy in 2003, but nil in 2004 as Europe's egg production recovered. Exports increased to Canada after AI was detected in Fraser Valley, British Columbia, leading to a massive poultry cull. Several countries placed temporary bans on some U.S. products after AI was reported in the U.S. Exports were sharply lower to Mexico and Hong Kong, slightly lower to China. However, for 2004, U.S. shell egg exports are up 19 percent in volume and 38 percent in value.

Asia is recovering from widespread outbreaks of AI this year that led to massive culling and numerous trade bans.

Source: International Egg Commission, USDA/AMS, news wires

Sources: U.S. Department of Commerce, news wires

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending December 11, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/ 2003
Liquid	388	358	18,457 16,581
Frozen	0	0	36 96
Dried	40	0	856 551
Total	428	358	19,349 17,228

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending December 11, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/ 2003
Liquid	86	62	7,556 5,137
Frozen	5	95	1,524 3,699
Dried	0	40	2,113 1,251
Total	91	197	11,193 10,087

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending December 11, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 1/	2004 2/ 2003
Jumbo	0	33	392 603
Extra Large	15,266	2,940	182,513 39,128
Large	22,463	6,430	359,944 142,703
Medium	4,220	2,432	122,094 64,987
Ungraded	4,776	1,560	327,197 184,952
Misc	0	0	16,790 14,222
Total	46,725	13,395	1,008,930 446,595

1/ Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes revisions to previous week(s).

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

U.S./Canadian Live Poultry Slaughtered Under Inspection

W/E 11-Dec-04 (PRELIMINARY)

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	1,534	1,403	2,937
Last Week	1,413	1,465	2,878
Same week yr ago	1,379	1,292	2,671
To-date/2004	66,912	66,585	133,497
To-date/2003	69,458	68,675	138,133

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	333	11	344
Last Week	335	0	335
Same week yr ago	241	3	244
To-date/2004	12,024	148	12,172
To-date/2003	10,584	144	10,728

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
THOUSANDS			
Head	1,867	1,414	3,281
Last Week	1,748	1,465	3,213
Same week yr ago	1,620	1,295	2,915
To-date/2004	78,936	66,733	145,669
To-date/2003	80,042	68,819	148,861

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

Dec 17, 2004				
CHICKEN				
PRICES VOLUME				
(Cents per Pound)				

FAT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
CONTENT				
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED

PRICES VOLUME				
(Cents per Pound)				

FAT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
CONTENT				
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	19.00	40,800	-
WTD AVERAGE		19.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	13.75-17.00	12.00-18.00	1,554,800	1,004,000
WTD AVERAGE	14.90	14.27		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	14.00-17.50	367,200	-
WTD AVERAGE		15.56		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

Dec 17, 2004				
CHICKEN				
PRICES VOLUME				
(Cents per Pound)				

FAT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
CONTENT				
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

CHICKEN, WITH SKIN ADDED

PRICES VOLUME				
(Cents per Pound)				

FAT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
CONTENT				
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	18.50	18.75-22.00	660,000	260,000
WTD AVERAGE	18.50	20.70		
15-20%				
RANGE	16.00-22.00	15.50-20.00	1,818,000	1,098,000
WTD AVERAGE	19.14	18.25		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	17.50	120,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		17.50		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT, FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 17 DECEMBER 2004.

The market tone was about steady for fresh white meat items, mostly steady on frozen white meat items. Fresh thigh meat was strong in part due to turkey ham production, frozen thigh meat steady. Next week's holiday schedules have affected the ability of buyers and sellers to coordinate next week's shipments. Trading on less than truck lot volumes of fresh: wing meat 126, scapula 120, breast trim 144. Non-basted 16-18 lb plant grade breast sold at 130, basted 20 lb and up plant grades at 135. Hearts moved at 28 cents. Export trading was fair with fresh tom drums at 38.5 cents to the border.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICE	WEEKLY VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	40.00		40.00	13	39.51	105
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS		R	47.00	40	47.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS	23.00		23.00	13	22.22	197
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		T	20.50	80	20.50	80
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	85.50-86.00		85.55	133	85.71	273

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		W	39.43	92
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS	47.00		47.00	40
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS	18.50		18.50	52
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		T	20.50	80
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		W	86.00	80

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	39.00-40.00		39.43	92
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS	23.00-24.00		23.61	132
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		T	20.50	80
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	86.00		86.00	80

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		F	39.00	40
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		W	24.00	100
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	20.00-21.00		20.50	80
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	85.00-86.00		85.67	60

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004**EXPORT TRADING**

	PRICE RANGE	L.S.T. CODE 1/	WTD AVG PRICE	VOLUME (000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		F	39.00	40
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS		W	24.00	100
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		W	21.00	156
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		F	85.40	200

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.